

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 24 August 2016 in the Village Hall

- Present:** Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
John Curran (JDC)
Ron Gunn (RG)
David Pratt (DP)
Doreen Sillett (DS)
Michael Woods - Chairman (MW)
- In attendance:** Peter & Teddy Goldby, Parishioners
Gordon Jones, Suffolk CC (GJ)
Patrick King, Parishioner
- Apologies:** Steve Laing - Vice Chairman (SL)
Sheila Roberts (SR)
John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)
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MW thanked all members of the PC for attending training sessions on the previous four Monday evenings, delivered by SALC; these had been very useful.

PUBLIC FORUM

Patrick King said he had tried to access the planning documents relating to the Marquis of Cornwallis via Babergh's website, but they had not been available to view. He was concerned that the site was now extremely exposed, in an area termed as 'open countryside'. He hoped that the intention was still to landscape the site in order to hide the car park etc, as the view from Lower Layham had been spoilt. He also said that floodlights had been in place for the last two nights, although this may have been for security reasons; however, he would like to see more subdued lighting in the long term. MW confirmed that the PC would continue to keep a watching brief on the site (see also minute 16.8.12).

Mrs Goldby said she walked into Hadleigh most days and was appalled at the amount of litter she collected along the way. In response to her query, MW said that litter collection was not Babergh's responsibility. The PC organised an annual litter pick and was currently investigating the possibility of employing a Village Keeper. Mrs Goldby also commented on the growth of vegetation across the footpath - she had reported this to Highways and some initial action was taken, but the job was not completed. GJ said he would raise this issue with the Cabinet Member for Highways.

16.8.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

16.8.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

16.8.3 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

16.8.3.1 District Council report

No report received.

16.8.3.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. GJ commented on the improvement in 'A' Level results for the county; GCSE results were due on 25 August. Schools had now changed the emphasis on reporting and there would shortly be a briefing in the EADT. MW commented on the article in a recent issue of the EADT in which SCC's Vice-Chairman had suggested parish councils could do more to deal with grass cutting,

potholes etc. In fact, many parish councils were already carrying out some of this work, but guidelines were required - for instance, it was not clear whether members were covered by insurance etc. GJ said he would try to get some clarity on this. MW also said that, if parish councils were going to be expected to do more, there should be some funding available to enable them to do so.

16.8.4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was noted that John Ward was Member with Special Responsibility for the Environment Portfolio - not Chairman of the Environment Committee (minute 16.7.9). With this amendment, it was proposed by JDC, seconded by DS and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27 July 2016 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

16.8.5 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Most of the actions were either ongoing, or were on the agenda. There were updates on the following actions:

16.8.5.1 Grounds management issues

MW and RG would seek a meeting with Babergh to discuss outstanding issues.

16.8.5.2 30mph speed limit in Lower Layham

JC would continue to follow up on the possibility of extending the 30mph speed limit in Stoke Road to the parish boundary. GJ said Steve Merry had been promoted and a new Local Highways Officer would be appointed shortly; he would advise the new contact details when known.

16.8.5.3 Upper Layham phone box / defibrillator

RG had painted the inside of the phone box and once Colin Brown returned from holiday, the back panel would be installed - hopefully by mid September. SL was liaising with the electrician.

16.8.5.4 Layham Road Playing Field lights

JC had written to Hadleigh Town Council and had received a response to say they would look into the matter.

16.8.5.5 Church Lane footpath

The footpath from Church Lane to Waterhouse Farm had still not been cut; JC would raise this with the landowner.

16.8.5.6 Merchant Navy Day

JC confirmed that a 'red duster' had been obtained and would be flown from the church tower on Merchant Navy Day - 3 September.

16.8.6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

16.8.6.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by DP, seconded by RG and agreed unanimously that payments of £4569.88 should be authorised. This included an amount of £3588 for the artificial turf in front of the goal areas on the Playing Field, which would be reimbursed by Section 106 funding. It was noted that a VAT refund of £494.65 for 2015/16 had now been received. As requested at the last meeting, JC had provided a breakdown of funds held for the Playing Field and Village Hall, as well as other activities such as the Recycling Centre, Lunch Club, Local History Group etc.

16.8.7 WRITTEN REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

16.8.7.1 Playing Field Committee

MW's report was noted.

16.8.8 PLANNING

No planning applications had been received since the last meeting.

16.8.9 PRIORITIES FOR 2016/17

It was agreed that one of the key priorities should be to try and prevent more accidents happening, particularly through Upper Layham. MW suspended the meeting in order to allow Teddy Goldby to speak: Mrs Goldby said she had witnessed some of the accidents and thought the cars involved were travelling at speeds well in excess of 30mph. MW said both councillors and the public were keen to see a reduction in speed and the PC might want to consider spending some money on signs. GJ commented that there was a view that permanent signs were not as effective as those which moved around the county. He would provide more information on this.

The meeting reconvened. It was agreed that the key priorities for the next year should probably be:

- Accident prevention
- Defibrillators
- Appointment of a Village Keeper

Other priorities discussed included:

- Dog Watch - it was proposed by DS, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that JC should contact Charlotte Britton to accept her offer to find out more about this scheme, and ask her to report back to a future PC meeting.
- Website - it was proposed by MW, seconded by JW and agreed unanimously that Jon Woods should be reimbursed for costs incurred over the past year, and ongoing costs relating to hosting, domain name etc.
- Layham Economy - a list on the website of local contractors etc.
- Replacement of play equipment on the Playing Field - JDC suggested a depreciation fund. However, MW noted that this was the responsibility of the Playing Field Committee, although the PC might be asked to assist if necessary.

There would be a further discussion on priorities at the September meeting, before any firm decisions were made.

16.8.10 EMERGENCY PLAN

JDC asked for comments on the latest draft within the next seven days. Following this, the working group - JDC, DP and RG - would meet to finalise the Plan, which would then go to JC for final editing before being presented to the September PC meeting for formal adoption. It was agreed that copies of the final Plan should be sent to Babergh and the emergency authorities, and also put on the website; it was not considered necessary for every ELV to have a copy. With regard to the register of vulnerable people, it was agreed that the ELVs should be aware of anyone within their 'patch'.

16.8.11 GREEN TEAM ACTION PLAN

The suggestion of the installation of gates from the playing field into the conservation area had been discussed with member of the Playing Field Committee and had met with mixed reactions; it would be discussed formally at the next meeting of the Committee in September. MW would organise cutting the wildflower area. SR and DS would try to recruit more volunteers to the Green Team.

16.8.12 MARQUIS OF CORNWALLIS

The original plans had shown some of the existing trees being retained and some new ones planted. However, it appeared that all the trees by the water's edge had been removed. It was proposed by MW, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that JC should write to the owner to ask whether any new planting was planned, especially in the light of comments from parishioners.

Following an article in the EADT about the Stour Valley 500 Trees project MW, as Tree Warden, had contacted Alex Moore da Luz to arrange a meeting - SR and DS would also be present.

16.8.13 GARDENER'S CLOSE

It was proposed by MW, seconded by DS and agreed unanimously that JC should write to Flagship to ask whether the shrub bed in Gardener's Close could be replanted, and the small shrub beds in front of the properties either replanted or revived.

16.8.14 CLERK'S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS

None.

16.8.15 CORRESPONDENCE

JC had received an email from a parishioner asking whether the bench on Brett Green could be refurbished; RG would deal with this.

16.8.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 21 September 2016, in the Village Hall.

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